

To Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1851 without my signature.

This bill requires new state buildings to exceed current energy efficiency standards and be constructed and/or renovated to incorporate green building elements that are cost-effective.

Early in my Administration, I directed Secretary Tamminen to establish a working group to develop green building bank initiatives for both public and private buildings.

Members of the working group include public sector decision makers, commercial real estate business owners and managers, energy experts and financial managers. The group is currently developing recommendations for a comprehensive program to dramatically advance energy conservation as well as incorporate other green building principles into commercial buildings.

Additionally, this bill is similar to the executive order passed in the prior administration which directed all state agencies to improve energy efficiency in all state buildings. This order has not been rescinded and is still in effect. Since this bill would codify much of an existing executive order, it would not improve upon existing efforts to increase adoption of sustainable building practices in California.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger